

been taken out of his sails by the member from Honolulu. If the bill passed it would deter him from drawing up his own agreements.

He referred to what Mr. Dole had said about "uneducated sharpers." He would ask, "Do they have licenses or not?" In his opinion there were a great many documents that people can draw up for themselves without calling in the aid of any legal ability.

At this stage of the proceedings, it being 3:30 P. M., a motion to adjourn until 10 A. M. on Wednesday was made and carried.

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THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

Saturday, June 21, 1884.

THE OPPOSITION AND THE MINISTRY.

The consideration of the Finance Committee's report in the House was the most important event of the session. We propose to review, in a spirit of perfect fairness and impartiality, the attitude of the Opposition as represented by this report, and the defense of its acts made by the administration. We have clearly stated that the inferential nature of the Committee's charges, their lack of directness, and a character of flippancy and triviality unbecoming so important a document put the Ministry at a disadvantage. Mr. Gibson's speech in the forenoon was a positive denial of the more tangible portions of this report. The allegations of the large sums received by the ADVERTISER from the Government, when under his management, were denied. It seemed to us that his assertion that the Finance Committee had most unaccountably omitted to mention in any way the affairs of the Supreme Court was pointed and significant. So important a portion of the Government machinery should not have been passed over in a report which was intended to be an investigation of all its branches. While there can be no greater check upon a Ministry than an honest and straightforward opposition, its freedom from personal bias is necessary to its hold upon the confidence of the people. Reviewing the material of which this committee is composed, we can calmly and fairly say that its members are deeply imbued with partisan feeling, and unfortunately for themselves, have allowed this feeling to crop out in their report. This manifest bias has given the Ministry an advantage of which they were not slow to avail themselves in the debate.

Mr. Gibson claimed that the Committee was most unmistakably prejudiced. He defended the departments under his control by explanations of the items of extravagance and misappropriation adduced by the Committee, and made his most effective point in showing that the expenditure of monies for the Sisters of Charity was not only justifiable, but commendable. In it the Finance Committee show its weakness. It should have inquired into this matter before embodying it in its report. Had it been better informed it could not possibly have fallen into the error of presenting this matter as an evidence of Ministerial extravagance.

In his reply to the charges of transferring funds from one appropriation to another, the defense of which Mr. Gibson assumed in the afternoon, that gentleman was not so successful. He alleged precedent as apology for what the opposition claimed was an infringement of the Constitution. One wrong cannot excuse another. The errors of a previous Ministry form no excuse for the successors to transgress with their eyes open, a most

important and most necessary restricting law. To the Legislature alone belongs the power of making this change in the conversion of these public funds. To allow this authority to pass into other hands is dangerous, and inconsistent with the relations between the people and the Government. Elected representatives of the people alone are authorized to make disposal of the people's money. If this law was trespassed upon in the past it is all the more necessary that it should be jealously observed in the future. In this regard we are in complete sympathy with the Opposition, and consider these allegations the most important part of the report. But we do believe that the money paid over by the planters to the Immigration Fund, does not come under the head of Government realization, but is really part and parcel of the Immigration Fund, as Mr. Gulick stated—the payment of a debt contracted by the planter to that fund and therefore to all intents and purposes belonging to the Immigration Fund.

The Minister of the Interior was not as fortunate as Mr. Gibson in his reply to the Finance Committee's strictures on his department. Mr. Gulick's vein was apologetic, and he failed to make an impressive defence of the alleged irregularities within his office. Vague as the specifications of the Committee were, the Minister's speech was even more rambling. The few positive portions of the report demanded an explanation, and this he failed to give. He had either neglected to prepare himself for the occasion, or did not comprehend the details of the irregularities charged to his department. But it is only fair to Minister Gulick to state that he was called upon to defend not alone the acts of his own administration, but the alleged irregularities of his predecessor.

The Attorney-General's reply to the accusations of the Opposition was bold, logical and convincing. He was chivalrous enough not only to defend the history of his term of office, but to explain the extravagance which was alleged against the former incumbent. He was pitilessly sarcastic in his allusions to the prejudiced character of the report, but withheld kept to the subject matter of what he termed his indictment, and showed that the money expended by his department was in accordance with the necessities of the office. Mr. Neumann was modest and straightforward, and made a decidedly favorable impression on the audience.

We regret that the speech of the Minister of Finance was not interpreted. Mr. Kapena was dignified, earnest and impressive, and his remarks should have been presented in English also, so that those who are ignorant of the native language might have understood his reception of the attacks of the Committee.

Though we have found fault with the tone of the Finance Committee's report, and the prejudice with which it is colored so plainly, we hold that vigorous opposition in this Government cannot but have a healthy result. The functions of the Ministry are so important that the closest scrutiny of its acts is a duty the elected representatives of the people owe their constituents and the existence of this opposition, and this scrutiny tends to preserve confidence between the public and its servants.

NOTES FROM THE DEBATE.

The *Hawaiian* declines to criticize the Ministry, the Opposition, the Finance Committee's Report, or anything pertaining to the important matters now occupying the attention of the Assembly. We are not afflicted with any timidity of this nature. We have spoken plainly and dispassionately of the Finance Committee's Report, called attention to where we assumed its weakness lay, freely declared our belief in the benefit that must accrue from a vigorous opposition, even though, a strong indication of prejudice detracted from the importance of the investigation. We have criticised the Ministry where it had exposed itself to criticism, and we held that if the funds of one appropriation have been transferred to another, the Ministry should be pinned to an explanation of this unconstitutional proceeding. We are perfectly independent throughout this matter, and in our outspoken expres-

sion of opinion, are simply availing ourselves of the privilege of every newspaper. The *Hawaiian* throws out an apology for its silence; there should be no silence on the part of a newspaper when the interests of the public are under consideration. It is at just such junctures as this that the true character of a journal becomes manifest. If it can afford to speak out without fear or favor, it proves its independence; but if it shrink from an honest expression of opinion, it is open to the suspicion of laying back for the opportunity of championing the stronger side irrespective of the justice of the case. We take no stock in fence journals. And we claim that a newspaper's attitude on the present situation is the surest test of its honesty and independence.

ONE of our evening contemporaries seems determined not to recognize the fact that the ADVERTISER has changed hands, and that the present management is not in any way responsible for the acts of its predecessors; nor is it called upon to defend or censure the same. The Finance Committee's report, so far as it relates to the ADVERTISER, deals with an epoch in its history with which Mr. E. C. Macfarlane, the present proprietor, has no concern. And it is unmanly and unfair to assail the ADVERTISER under its present ownership for any relations it may have sustained in the past. But it is in keeping with the shallow, sneaking warfare for which the sloppy enemies of the ADVERTISER have formed a select tripartite alliance. Too cowardly to discuss any question upon its merits, they fill their columns with mendacious assaults, and lie day in and day out for the very lust of lying.

MR. GIBSON, when defending himself from the attacks of the opposition on Thursday, referred to the monopoly the *Gazette* enjoyed of the business of the Supreme Court. It was singular the Committee passed this over in silence. By the way, their objections to the Government throwing its patronage to the ADVERTISER at the time it was a Government organ, were comical. The party in power is never given to bestowing patronage on the organs which array themselves against it. But the *Gazette*, with all the fat business of the Supreme Court flowing into its columns, had no reason to complain.

THE point made by the Ministry that the Finance Committee was composed of four members from the ranks of the Opposition, and but one from the side of the Administration, and he a native indifferently acquainted with English, was suggestive. Had a good business man, well versed in the affairs which the Committee investigated, been chosen, there would have been less reason to allege prejudice. This would have given us a minority report which was impossible under the methods by which the present Committee was appointed. It is usual in all legislative bodies to give, in a committee of five, two representatives of the minority's interests.

THE debate yesterday afternoon was long winded to a degree. The Hon. gentleman from Hilo led off well and had he cut his address down to about one half its length, would have retired with a large laurel wreath. This fault is noticeable in many of our orators. They start in nicely, but grow so enamored of their arguments that they must needs make them again. This has a bad effect. The repetition does not rub them in. It makes them so heavy that they slip off the brain plates of the audience, and are lost in the wilderness of verbosity.

WHILE the air is filled with rumors of shortcomings in Ministerial affairs, we are pleased to note that there is an unforeseen surplus at the prison on the reef. Although the Finance Committee did not mention this in their report, a supplementary document congratulating Marshal Parke on the flourishing increase in this branch of the population, would be a graceful compliment to that efficient officer.

THE speech delivered by Mr. Godfrey Brown, yesterday, was the strongest and most logical that has yet proceeded from the Opposition.

There was one remark of a directly personal nature which we thought objectionable on the ground of good taste; but the speech, on the whole, was an able defense of the attitude of the Opposition.

WHEREAS, in the early portion of the week the Ministers were dressed in light and airy garments, on the day of the presentation of the Finance Committee's Report, they were arrayed in solemn black. This was in accordance with the time-honored custom which prescribes that the victim shall wear his best on the day of the sacrifice, and approach the altar clad in fine linen and sober raiment.

ADMIRAL LYONS has been constant in his attendance at the House since the opening of the debate on the Finance Committee's report. The reference in regard to those dressing cases which so mysteriously disappeared seem to afford the Admiral lots of enjoyment. The country is not safe until the fate of those dressing cases is determined on.

A LARGE number of those who attended the Assembly yesterday looked forward to some hot work in the afternoon, but they were disappointed. It was supposed that some of the Ministers would reply to Mr. Godfrey Brown's speech. However, the native members had the floor, and the Ministers were compelled to reserve their fire until to-day.

WE believe this is the first time in the history of nations that corsets and a bustle were made the subject of legislative debate. There was a period in English history when a garter cut an important figure. And just for a parallel, the Finance Committee might have suggested the Order of the Corsets and the Bustle, and date its institution from the framing of their report.

THE Opposition orators cut out Minister Gibson's work for this morning. The Attorney-General was also given some room for explanation: Nor was the Minister of Finance neglected. They had all night to sleep on the matter, so we may expect some sharp field practice to-day.

NOTES ON THE FAIR.

The experience of last week's Show confirms that of last year as to the unsuitability of the month of June for the horticultural part of the Fair. A flower show in a place like Honolulu ought to be a very bright affair, if anything like a fair representation of the flowers that grow and bloom here could be got together. The universal opinion appears to be that the Horticultural Show should be held a couple of months earlier. Most people also think that it ought to be in town, or very near it, both for the sake of those who want to exhibit, and of those who want to visit it. As these opinions are said to be shared by the members of the Board of Management, we may hope that they will lead to a change next year.

The receipts for entrance money were about \$155—only about a third of what they were last year, when the Fair was held in town. This was to be expected; the expense of going and returning, and the time occupied necessarily deter many from visiting a Fair held at the Park. This would be almost remedied if a horse-railroad were made from town to the Show ground. It is to be hoped that this will be accomplished before next Fair day.

Who would not be a judge of horses, cattle, or dogs? Few men can accept a decision given against them in a contented spirit. Exhibitors are "kittle cattle" to deal with, and it may be deemed fortunate that so few of them expressed dissatisfaction with the awards of the judges on Saturday. To err is human, and when we have one exhibitor's opinion against the opinions of three judges, the chances are always three to one that the error is not on the side of the judges.

Solid looking articles were some of the ploughs exhibited. With sufficient pulling power; they ought to make clean work of the worst bit of ground that ever a sugar-planter selected for his cane. In contrast to those massive imported implements were those exhibited by the Kilauea Sugar Company. Their sub-soil plow

was manufactured for them by their blacksmith. With one or two strong mules or horses these plows will thoroughly loosen the soil in the bottom of a furrow, and they are extensively used in Queensland for that purpose, and also for working the bank between rows of cane. The plow is not patented, and can be made by any competent blacksmith. The grubber exhibited by the same company is also made on the plantation. It is intended for cultivation between the rows of cane, and is of lighter draught, and is more effective than the cultivators generally used on these islands. A similar implement is used in Scotland and other parts of the old world in cultivating potatoes, turnips, etc. Such is the information furnished to us about these handy looking implements.

The mats and tapas did not seem to attract the attention they deserved. Only one here and there among the visitors had any idea of their value or how they would compare with other similar things that they may have seen. These were of exceptional fineness.

ONLY one exhibit of grapes. Captain Babcock's came from a vine in its first bearing. Mr. Philip Milton, whose fine grapes have been from time to time the admiration and envy of his friends, was to have been a competitor, but his grapes did not ripen in time. Many people have been planting vines of late, and we hope that before many years are past the local supply will be so good that we shall not need to import any from the Coast, and that instead of one there will be twenty exhibitors at the Fair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

MR. EDITOR:—In reply to the statement in Monday's issue of the ADVERTISER about our horse "Langford, Jr." being not five-eighths thoroughbred, we will say that the afore-mentioned remarks were not made by either a horseman, nor were they in good taste. Of the award made by the judges, we have only to say that we have heard no dissenting remarks from anyone excepting a very few who always want horse-races as well as horse-shows, judged in the same jug-handle manner—"all on one side." The statement that there were no other thoroughbred horses in this Island except "Waterford," we would ask—What is Mr. Campbell's "Venture," Mr. Cummin's "Governor Stanford," and Mr. Robinson's "305" if they are not thoroughbreds?

"Langford, Jr." is strictly thoroughbred, second to none, not excepting "Bazaar," his dam being by "Cosmo," who was by the imported English thoroughbred "Skylark," grand-dam "Fanny Harper" by "Gray Eagle." "Fanny Harper" is the dam of Mr. John Cummins' famous stallion "Governor Stanford."

"Langford, Jr." must stand or fall on his merits, for we will not lower ourselves by trying to raise his reputation by pulling other people's horses down.

MILES BROTHERS.

POLICE COURT.

BEFORE POLICE-JUSTICE BICKERTON.

TUESDAY, June 17th.

Three drunkards paid the usual penalty for their misdemeanor.

Keo was fined \$5 for disturbing the quiet of night.

A native woman, on a charge of deserting her husband, after a four days' remand, reconsidered the steps she had taken, and returned to him to whom she belonged, on the payment of costs by the husband.

Max Kohn, who was charged by George Lincoln as a gross cheat, was tried, and discharged. Mr. Russell appeared for the defendant.

A *nolle prosequi* was entered in the case of one Kalei, charged with deserting his wife.

Edward McCarron, W. Cox, and Thomas Poole, seamen of the S. S. *City of Paris*, were charged with larceny by breaching cargo. Mr. J. M. Davidson appeared for the defendants. All three were remanded until the 20th instant.

Louis Dierking was charged with selling liquor without a license, and remanded until 19th instant.

A *nolle prosequi* was entered in the case of Manuela Maria, charged with vagrancy.

Peter Benson, on a charge of larceny, was remanded until the 18th instant.